

## From the American Community Survey: 1999

# Population and Housing Profile: Hampden County, Massachusetts

NOTES: The population estimates in this profile are for people living in households and group quarters.

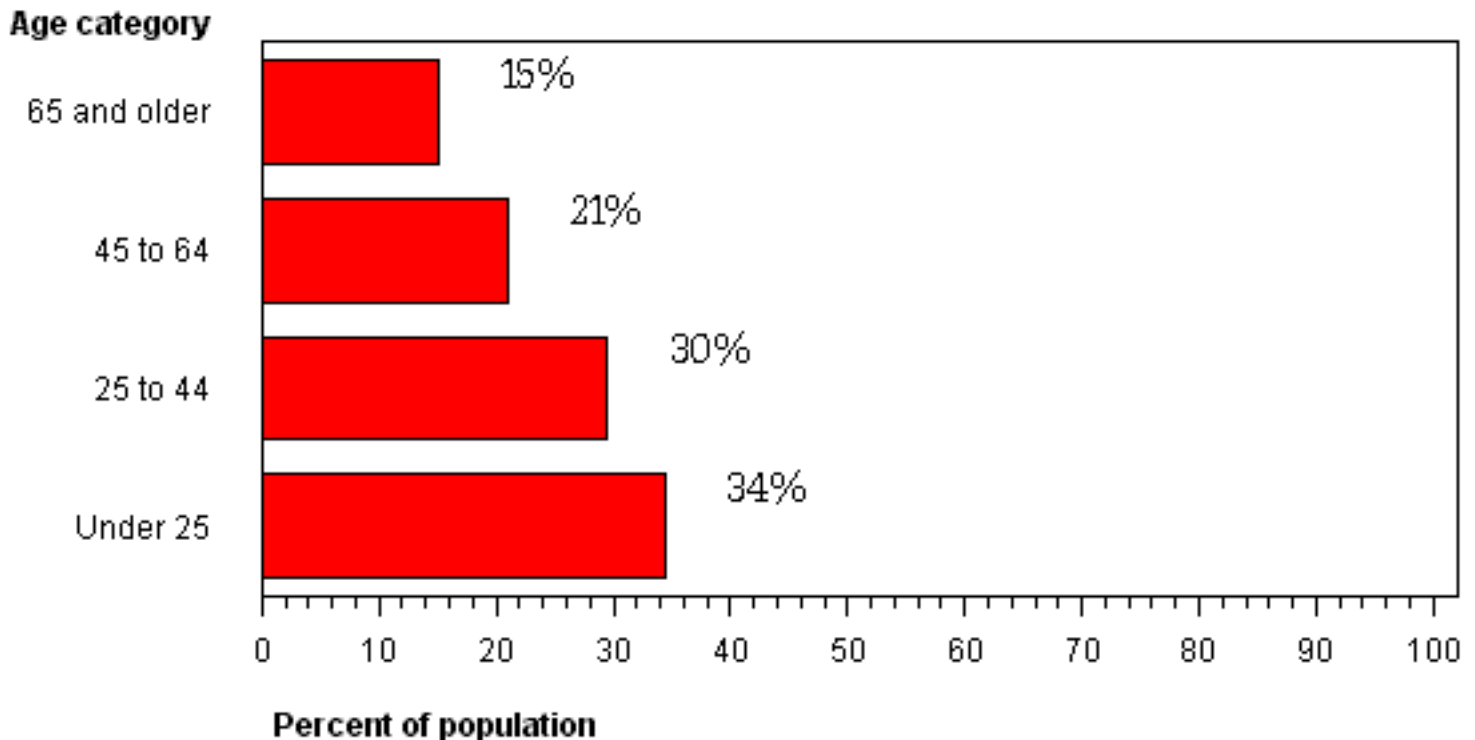
In the narrative profile below, if one sample estimate is larger than another, it does not necessarily mean that the same holds for their true values for the entire population. These estimates are derived from a sample of housing units and measure the true values with a degree of uncertainty. In the Profiles found at [www.census.gov/acs/www/index\\_c.htm](http://www.census.gov/acs/www/index_c.htm), this uncertainty is represented by the 90 percent confidence interval given for each estimate. For further information on confidence intervals see the Accuracy of the Data documents at [www.census.gov/acs/www/index\\_b.htm](http://www.census.gov/acs/www/index_b.htm).

Caution should be used when comparing data by race from previous years with those for 1999 due to the Census Bureau's implementation of the October 1997 revised standards for data on race and ethnicity. For the 1999 data, respondents may report one or more races and there are seven (American Indian and Alaska Native, Asian, Black or African American, Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander, White, some other race, and two or more races) instead of five racial tabulation categories. The two or more races category includes all respondents who reported more than one race. See the methodology section for more details regarding these changes.

**These data are preliminary and should not be used for official purposes.**

**POPULATION OF Hampden County:** In 1999, Hampden County had a population of 438,279. The median age was 36.1 years. Twenty-seven percent were under 18 years and 15 percent were 65 or older. There were 52 percent women and 48 percent men.

## The Age Distribution of People in Hampden County, Massachusetts in 1999



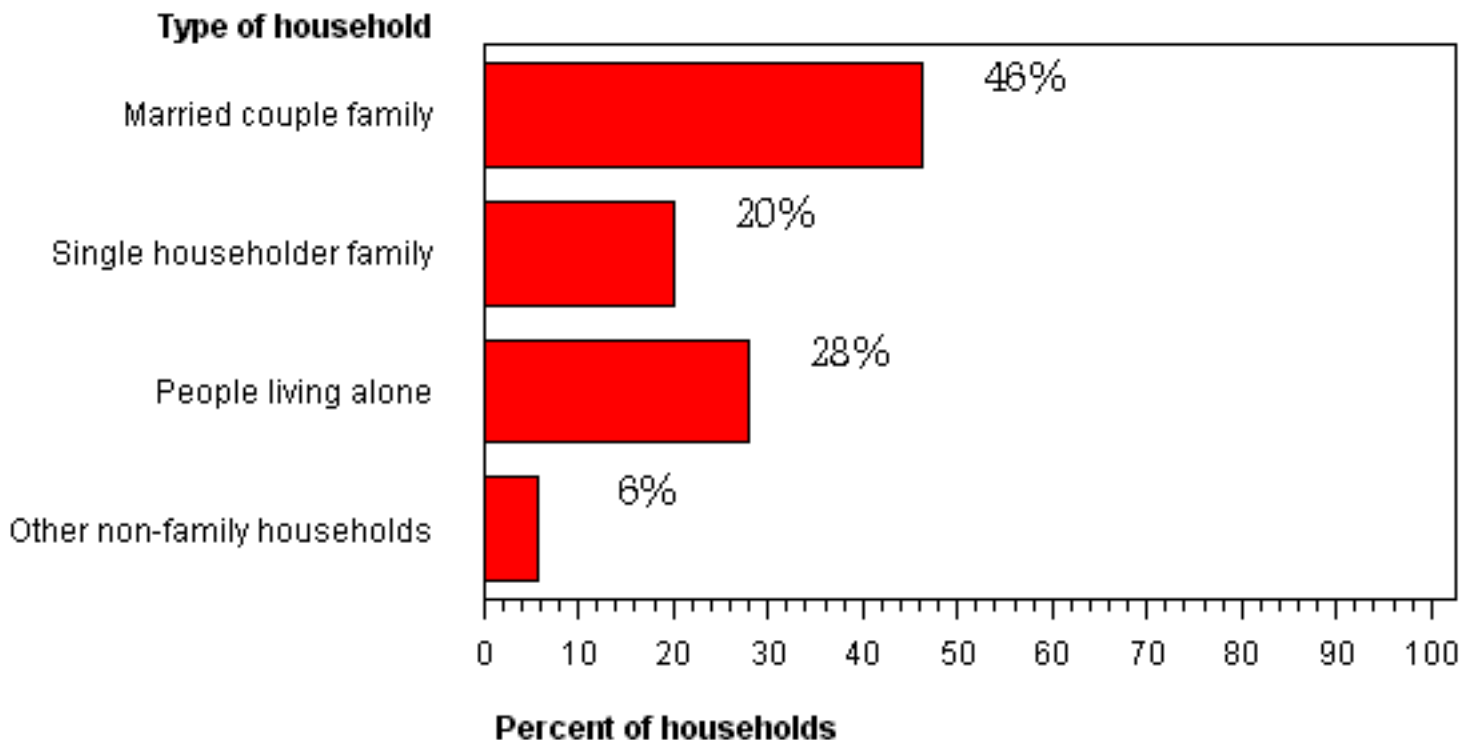
Source: Bureau of the Census, American Community Survey, 1999

For people reporting one race, 77 percent of the people in Hampden County were White, not of Hispanic origin; 9 percent were Black or African American, less than 0.5 percent were American Indian and Alaska Native, 2 percent were Asian, and less than 0.5 percent were Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander. Two percent reported two or more races. Thirteen percent of the people of Hampden County were of Hispanic origin. People of Hispanic origin may be of any race.

**HOUSEHOLDS AND FAMILIES:** In 1999 there were 171,544 households in Hampden County. The average household size was 2.51 people.

Families made up 66 percent of the households in Hampden County that year. This figure includes both married couple families (46 percent) and other families with no spouse present (20 percent). Non-family households made up 34 percent of all households in Hampden County. Most of the non-family households were people living alone, but some were people living in households maintained by non-relatives.

## The Types of Households in Hampden County, Massachusetts in 1999



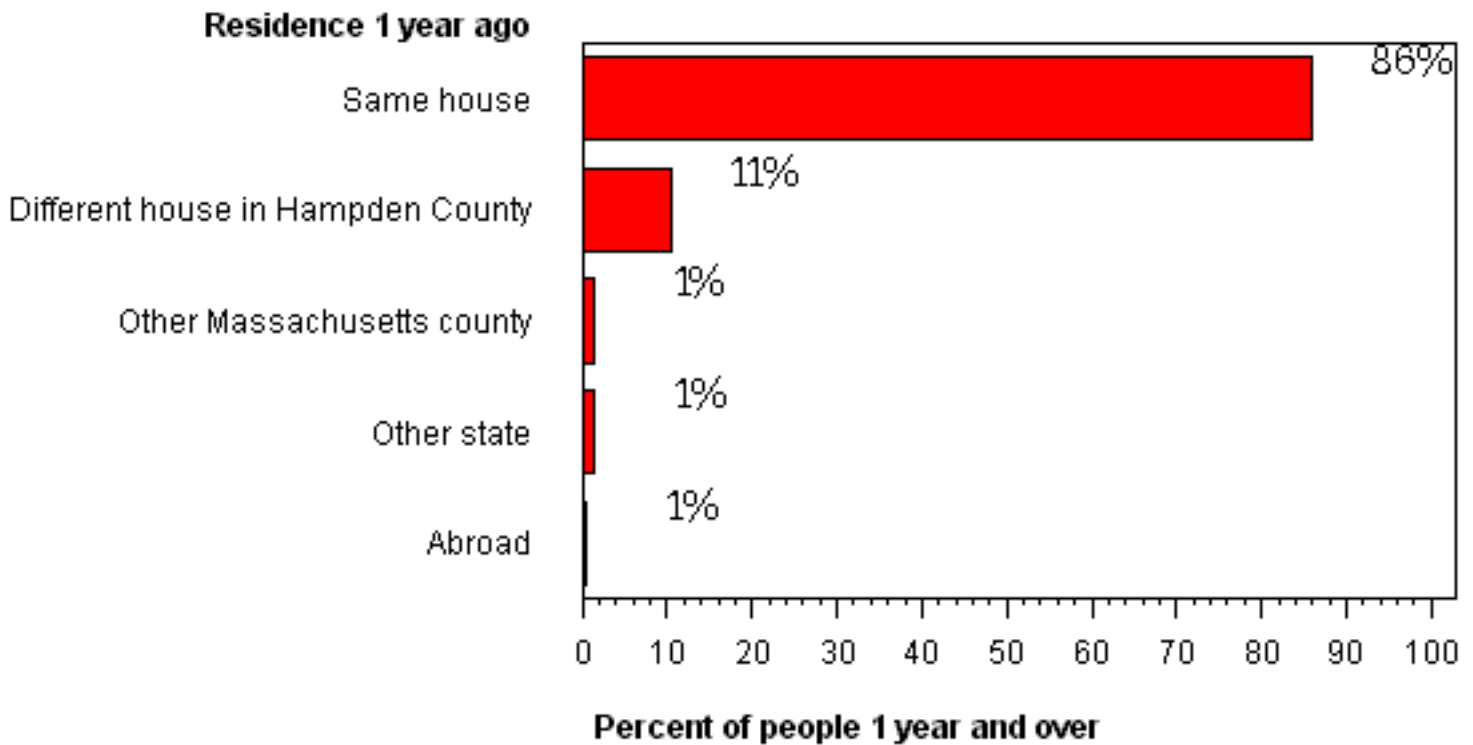
Source: Bureau of the Census, American Community Survey, 1999

**NATIVITY AND LANGUAGE:** Seven percent of the people living in Hampden County in 1999 were foreign born. Ninety-three percent were native born, including 68 percent who were born in the State of Massachusetts.

Among people at least five years old living in Hampden County in 1999, 79,628 spoke a language other than English at home. Of this group, 57 percent spoke Spanish, and 43 percent spoke some other language; 41 percent reported that they did not speak English "very well".

**GEOGRAPHIC MOBILITY:** In 1999, 86 percent of the people one year or older living in Hampden County were living in the same house one year earlier; 11 percent had moved during the past year from another house in the same county, 1 percent from another Massachusetts county, 1 percent from another state, and 1 percent from abroad.

## Geographic Mobility of Residents of Hampden County, Massachusetts in 1999

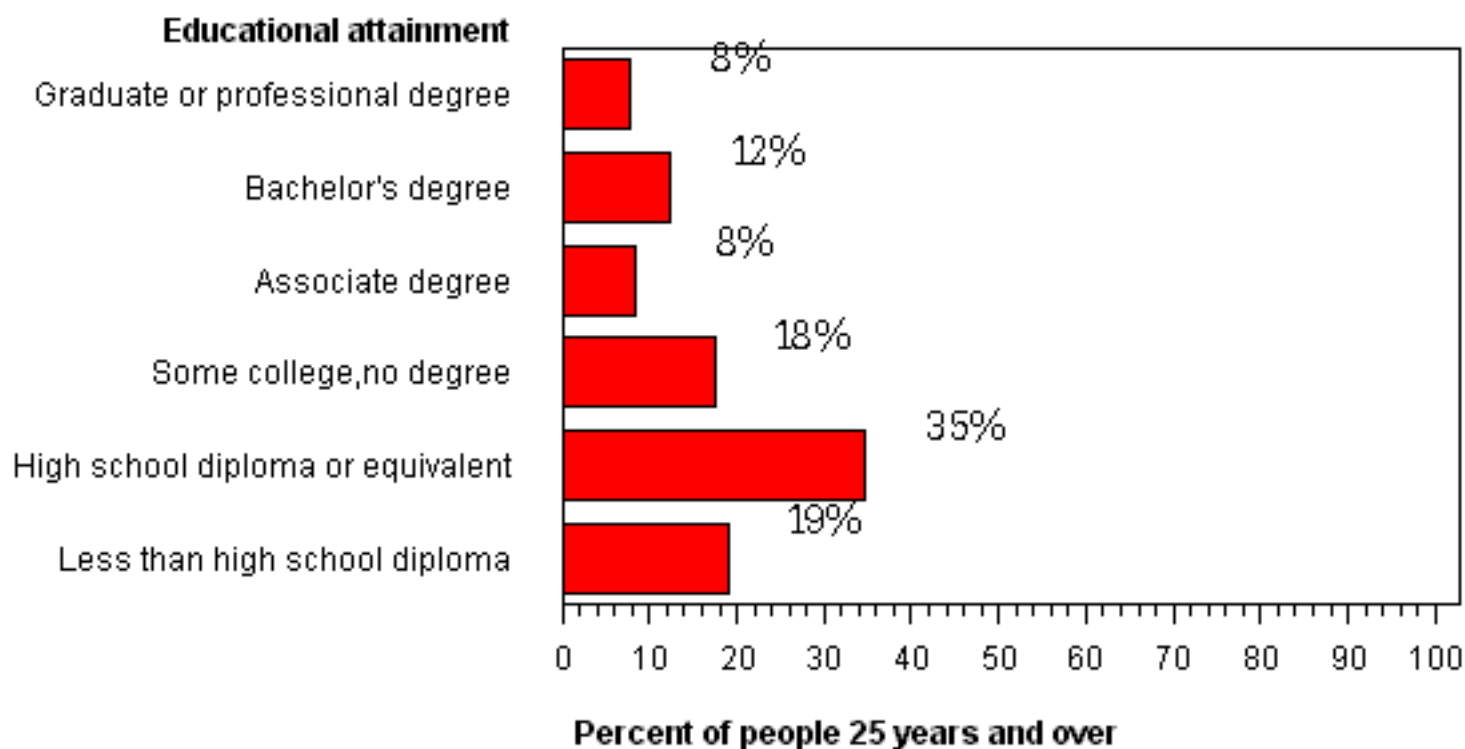


Source: Bureau of the Census, American Community Survey, 1999

**EDUCATION:** In 1999, 81 percent of people at least 25 years old had at least graduated from high school and 20 percent had a bachelor's degree or higher. Among people 16 to 19 years old, 9 percent were dropouts: They were not enrolled in school and had not graduated from high school.

The total school enrollment in Hampden County was 121,138 in 1999. Preprimary school enrollment was 15,618 and 79,824 children were enrolled in elementary or high school. College enrollment was 25,696.

## The Educational Attainment of People in Hampden County, Massachusetts in 1999



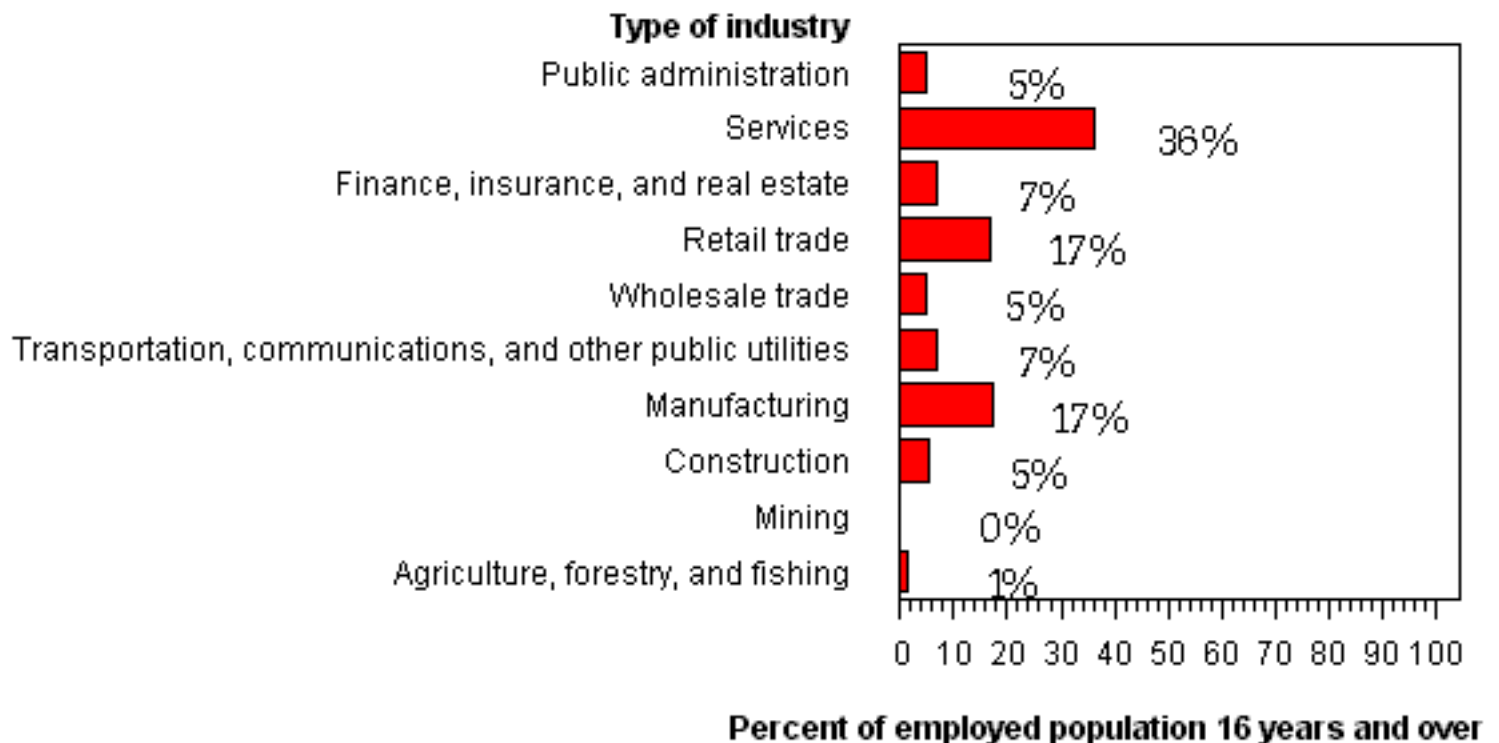
Source: Bureau of the Census, American Community Survey, 1999

**DISABILITY:** In Hampden County, among people at least five years old in 1999, 18 percent had a disability. The likelihood of having one or more functional limitations varied by age - from 9 percent of people 5 to 20 years old, to 16 percent of people 21 to 64 years old, to 38 percent of those 65 and older.

**INDUSTRIES, OCCUPATIONS AND TYPE OF EMPLOYER:** In 1999, for the employed population 16 and older, the leading industries in Hampden County were Services, 36 percent, and Manufacturing, 17 percent.

Among the most common occupations were: Technical, sales, and administrative support occupations, 31 percent; Managerial and professional specialty occupations, 26 percent; Service occupations, 16 percent; Operators, fabricators, and laborers, 15 percent; and Precision production, craft, and repair occupations, 11 percent. Seventy-seven percent of the people in the employed labor force were Private wage and salary workers; 15 percent were Federal, state, or local government workers; and 7 percent were Self-employed.

## Employment by Industry in Hampden County, Massachusetts in 1999



Source: Bureau of the Census, American Community Survey, 1999

**TRAVEL TO WORK:** Eighty-two percent of Hampden County workers drove to work alone in 1999 and 9 percent car- or van-pooled. On average it took them 21 minutes to get to work.

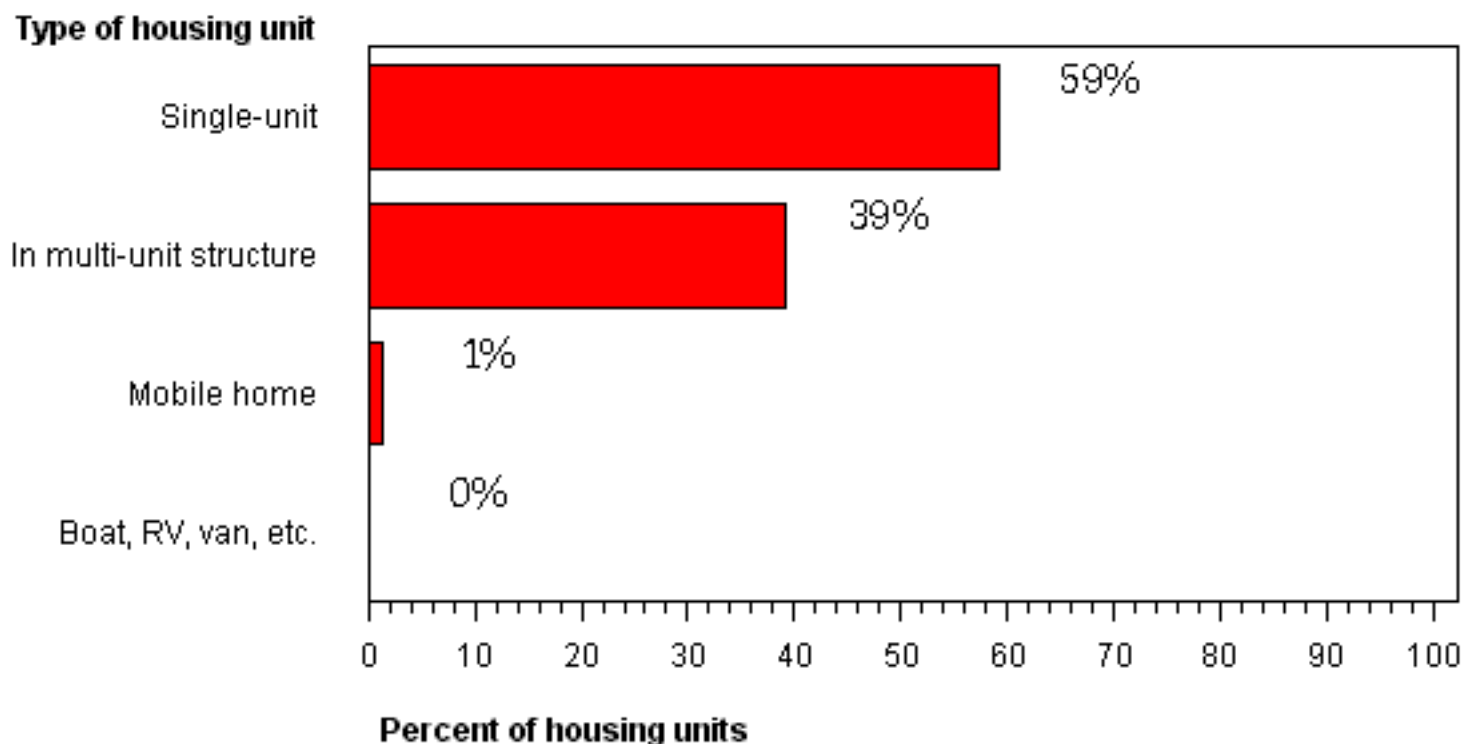
**INCOME:** The median income of households in Hampden County was \$37,260. Seventy-five percent of the households received earnings and 19 percent received retirement income other than Social Security. These income sources are not mutually exclusive; that is, some households received income from more than one source.

**POVERTY AND PARTICIPATION IN GOVERNMENT PROGRAMS:** In 1999, 12 percent of all families had incomes below the poverty level, compared with 37 percent of families with a female householder and no spouse present.

Twenty-four percent of the households in Hampden County received means-tested public assistance or noncash benefits. Thirty percent of the households received Social Security. The average income from Social Security was \$10,560.

**HOUSING CHARACTERISTICS:** In 1999, Hampden County had a total of 184,144 housing units. Housing in Hampden County was spread among 109,116 single-family homes (detached or attached), 2,589 mobile homes, and 72,336 units in multi-unit structures.

## The Types of Housing Units in Hampden County, Massachusetts in 1999



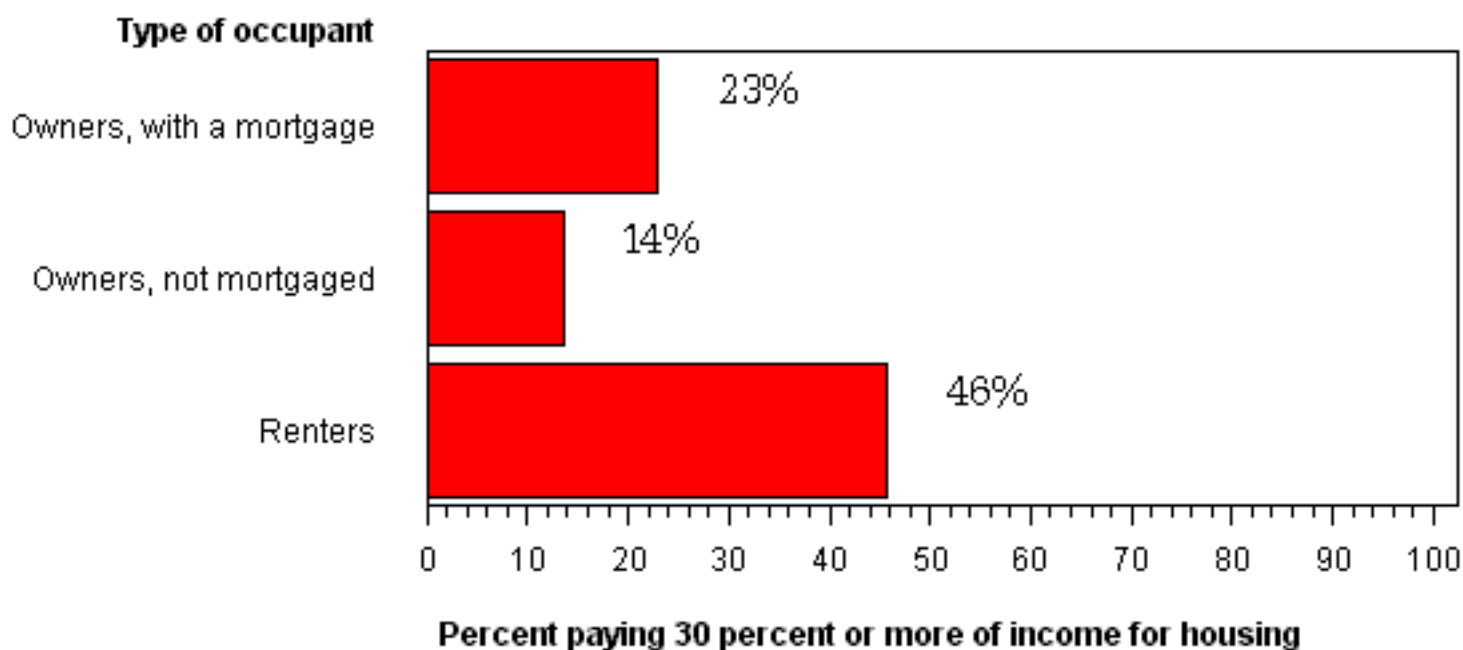
Source: Bureau of the Census, American Community Survey, 1999

In 1999, 7 percent of the housing units in Hampden County were vacant. Fourteen percent of the vacant units were for seasonal, recreational, or occasional use. Five percent of the housing units were built since 1990. One hundred percent of Hampden County housing units had complete plumbing and 99 percent had complete kitchen facilities.

**CHARACTERISTICS OF OCCUPANTS:** The occupied units consisted of 108,729 that were owned by residents and 62,815 that were rented. Three percent of the households occupying these units reported not having telephone service in their home and 14 percent did not have access to a car, truck, or van for private use. Thirty-seven percent had two vehicles and another 13 percent had three or more.

**HOUSING COSTS:** Forty-four percent of owners with mortgages in Hampden County spent less than 20 percent of their household income on housing; 23 percent spent 30 percent or more on housing. Among renters, 29 percent spent less than 20 percent of their household income on rent and 46 percent spent 30 percent or more on rent. The median gross rent was \$551 per month.

## Occupants with a Housing Cost Burden in Hampden County, Massachusetts in 1999



Source: Bureau of the Census, American Community Survey, 1999